

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

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R 011007Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJECT: NEWS REPORT OF THAI BEING FORCED FROM BETONG BY
MALAYSIANS

1. ENGLISH DAILY BANGKOK POST SEPT. 1 CARRIED STORY ENTITLED
"THAIS PUSHED OUT OF HOMES" WHICH CLAIMED THAT THAI LIVING
IN BETONG SALIENT HAD BEEN FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES BY
MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES. ARTICLE CLAIMED AS ITS SOURCE A
REPORTED MADE TO DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BY MFA. MFA SOURCES
HAVE TOLD EMBOFF STORY WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION; NO SUCH REPORT
HAD BEEN MADE TO DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, AND ANY THAI BEING
ASKED TO LEAVE OCCUPIED LANDS WERE THOSE WHO HAVE SETTLED ON
MALAYSIAN TERRITORY NOT KNOWING LOCATION OF BORDER.

2 ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, AS BORDER DEMARCATION COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRESSES, CASES ARE UNEARTHED OF THAI LIVING IN
MALAYSIA AND MALAYSIANS IN THAILAND WHO ULTIMATELY WILL HAVE
TO BE RESETTLED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WHEN FOUND, OCCU-
PANTS ARE ASKED TO MOVE, BUT IN THOSE CASES WHERE SETTLERS
HAVE LIVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON THE "WRONG" SIDE OF
BORDER, THEY ARE BEING GIVEN TIME TO MOVE THEIR HOMES AND
OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST CROPS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLANTED.

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3. PRESS REPORT ALSO STATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI
ACCOMPANIED BY UNDERSECRETARY ANAN WILL BE MAKING INSPECTION
TOUR OF SOUTH THAILAND SEPTEMBER 3. MFA SOURCES CONFIRMED
TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE AND WILL BE SIMILAR TO FAMILIARIZATION
TRIP MADE BY PHICHAI SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO NORTHEAST
THAILAND.
BURKE

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NNN

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